

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 4, 13 and 15 to 24 are amended as set forth hereinafter.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A holding device for attaching a drape for a surgical microscope in the region of the main objective thereof, said main objective having an outer peripheral surface and said holding device comprising:

5 a holding unit defining a recess for said objective; and,
 said holding unit having a tongue-shaped section for applying a spring force onto said outer peripheral surface of said main objective when said holding unit is mounted on said main objective in order to force-tightly hold said holding unit
10 on said main objective.

2. (Original) The holding device of claim 1, wherein said holding unit has a plurality of said tongue-shaped sections.

3. (Original) The holding device of claim 2, wherein said tongue-shaped sections have different lengths.

4. (Currently Amended) The holding device of claim 3, wherein

said holding unit has an annular section defining an annular recess and said annular recess ~~defining~~ defines an axis; and, said tongue-shaped sections ~~extending~~ extend in an inclined direction to said axis.

5. (Original) The holding device of claim 4, wherein said tongue-shaped sections are directed toward the inner side of said annular section.

6. (Original) The holding device of claim 5, wherein the direction of said tongue-shaped sections to said axis is different.

7. (Original) The holding device of claim 1, said holding unit including a stop element for impacting against an end face region of said main objective.

8. (Original) The holding device of claim 1, further comprising a cover element; and, said holding unit including means for holding said cover element.

9. (Original) The holding device of claim 8, wherein said holding means includes a guide for said cover element.

10. (Original) The holding device of claim 9, wherein said holding means includes clamping means.

11. (Original) The holding device of claim 10, wherein said

holding means includes latching means.

12. (Original) The holding device of claim 11, wherein said guide includes a stop section for said cover element.

13. (Currently Amended) The holding device of claim 1, wherein said holding unit is made of plastic.

14. (Original) The holding device of claim 8, wherein said cover element is matched to said holding unit so as to permit said cover element to be accommodated in said holding unit in two orientations rotated by 180° to each other.

15. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The holding device of claim 1, further comprising:

a cover element having a window section for passing a viewing beam path and/or an illuminating beam path of [[a]] said
5 surgical microscope, microscope;

the cover element ~~comprising~~ including:

a holding section for holding ~~the~~ said cover element in
[[a]] said holding ~~device~~ unit; and,

linear guide means in said holding section for facilitating
10 a lateral introduction of said cover element into said holding
device unit.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The cover element of claim 14~~ holding device of claim 15, wherein said holding section includes, at least partially, a thickened edge.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~cover element~~ holding device of claim 16, further comprising at least one notch formed in said thickened edge.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~cover element~~ holding device of claim 15, further comprising a handle formed on said cover element.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~cover element~~ holding device of claim 18, wherein said holding section defines a region lying opposite said handle and said region of said holding section has a boundary edge having a convex contour.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~cover element~~ holding device of claim 19, wherein said boundary edge has at least one rounded edge region.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~cover element~~ holding device of claim 15, further comprising a window base for carrying said window section.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~cover element~~ holding device of claim 21, wherein said window base is configured to have a conical cross section.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~cover element~~ holding device of claim 22, wherein said window section is inclined to said holding section.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~cover element~~ holding device of claim 15, which cover element is made of PMMA.

25. (Original) A drape system for a surgical microscope having a main objective and said main objective having an outer peripheral surface, the drape system comprising:

a drape;

5 a holding device for attaching said drape in the region of said main objective;

said holding device including a holding unit defining a recess for said main objective; and,

10 said holding unit having a tongue-shape section for applying a spring force onto said outer peripheral surface of said main objective when said holding unit is mounted on said main objective in order to force-tightly hold said holding unit on said main objective.

26. (Original) The drape system of claim 25, wherein said holding unit has a plurality of said tongue-shaped sections.

27. (Original) The drape system of claim 26, wherein said tongue-shaped sections have different lengths.

28. (Original) The drape system of claim 27, wherein said holding unit has an annular section defining an axis and defining an annular recess and said annular recess defining an axis; and, said tongue-shaped sections extending in an inclined direction to
5 said axis.

29. (Original) The drape system of claim 28, wherein said tongue-shaped sections are directed toward the inner side of said annular section.

30. (Original) The drape system of claim 29, wherein the direction of said tongue-shaped sections to said axis is different.

31. (Original) The drape system of claim 25, said holding unit including a stop element for impacting against an end face region of said main objective.

32. (Original) The drape system of claim 25, further comprising a cover element; and, said holding unit including means for holding said cover element.

33. (Original) The drape system of claim 32, wherein said holding means includes a guide for said cover element.

34. (Original) The drape system of claim 33, wherein said holding means includes clamping means.

35. (Original) The drape system of claim 34, wherein said holding means includes latching means.

36. (Original) The drape system of claim 35, wherein said guide includes a stop section for said cover element.

37. (Original) The drape system of claim 25, wherein holding unit is made of plastic.

38. (Original) The drape system of claim 32, wherein said cover element is matched to said holding unit so as to permit said cover element to be accommodated in said holding unit in two orientations rotated by 180° to each other.